

## Andrew Jackson to Henry Dearborne, January 8, 1807, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO HENRY DEARBORN.1

1 Copy. War Dept. files. A copy is in the Jackson MSS.

Hermitage, January 8, 1807.

*Sir.* I advised you on the 4th inst by the express from Neworleans, that on the 2nd. I had dispatched, a confidential messenger to the mouth of Cumberland with special direction to make the observations contained in my order. If an assemblage of Boats had been there and passed down the river, to proceed to Massac, deliver my letter to Capt Bissle, make the necessary enquiries, receive Capt Bissles answer and return without delay. From my instruction to Mr Morrell, the messenger, my letter to Capt Bissle, the messengers report, and Capt Bissles answer to me copies of which are herewith enclosed and marked No. 1, 2, 3, and 4, you will discover how this duty has been performed—from the information recd have ordered the Volunteer companies that were ordered and ready to march on this service, to return home, and hold themselves ready to march at a minutes warning. I was induced to Issue this order, from information derived from Neworleans, from Mr Hopkins, express from Governor Claiborne, under an idea that they might be wanted at a short day, and if not wanted, it would keep up a spirit of discipline much wanted amongst our militia. I shall draw on you for the expense occasioned by the express to Massac, and have no doubt but it will be paid.

The first duty of a soldier or good citizen is to attend to the safety and interest of his country, The next to attend to his own feelings wherever they are rudely or wantonly

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assailed. The Tenor of your letter is such and the insinuations so grating—The ideas and tenor so unmilitary, stories alluded to, and intimations, of a conduct, to stoop, from the character of a general to a smiling *assasin* ( *These hereafter* ) I will sir inclose you, the copy of a letter from Govr. Claiborne, that will shew you I never depart, from a true sense of duty to my country, wherever I am even suspicious of its injury.

Health and respect.